

ROSES AND GEESE DUE KING AS RENT

Britain's Ruler Could Also Collect
Porridge, Snow and Faggots
if He Chose.

Some of the rents which are King George's due from certain of his loyal subjects are "more honored in the breach than in the observance." It would certainly surprise King George and Queen Mary if the Lord of the Manor of Admington, in Surrey, should suddenly appear and plunk down on the royal breakfast table the bowl of porridge which constitutes his yearly rent in acknowledgment of his sovereign's overlordship.

Whether the present owner of the Foulis estates in Scotland regularly pays his rent we cannot say, or whether the King, as is likely, shuts his eyes to the omission of the buckiful of snow which is his rightful due. As the estates are near Ben Nevis, there would certainly be no difficulty in obtaining a trainload of snow once a year, and probably even a buckiful in summer; but, as the King has little use for snow, probably the rental is never paid.

Quite a different and much more desirable rent is the one which has been charged to the tenant of Credenon, in Buckinghamshire, from time immemorial.

The rent consists of a garland of roses every June, and, needless to say the garland is duly forwarded, and is a thing of beauty, as it ought to be.

In September every year two faggots are paid at the law courts by the City Remembrancer as rent for lands held by the city corporation from his majesty the King. This official not only has to deliver the two faggots, but he has to see that they are properly received and accept a duly signed and witnessed receipt for them, which is filed in the city's archives.

The authorities of the Isle of Portland make a queer sort of collection every November on behalf of his majesty. It is called the "King's Halfpenny"; but, as a matter of fact, every cottager on the island pays a farthing, every cottage with a garden a halfpenny, and every man with an acre of land or more three pence. This is called "quilt rent."

When the King lately went across the Channel to pay his state visit to Paris he ought to have been attended across the briny ocean by the present representative of Solomon Attfield, to whom King John gave his lands on condition that, whenever he or any of his successors crossed the Channel, the said Solomon or his heirs should be in attendance to hold up the King's head when he was seasick.

His title was the Royal Headholder. However, as the last monarch to call for this service was Edward I, and, especially as his present majesty is a sailor, it is very unlikely that the existing Solomon was called upon to perform his functions.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that if the King so desired he could call upon the tenants of the Attfield estates to do the service by which they hold the tenure of their land.

If the King should pay a visit to Arlesbury—where the ducks come from—the inhabitants are supposed to supply him with three eels if it is winter, and with two fat geese if it is summer. If the King should visit Chichester, by ancient usage he ought immediately to demand a string for his crossbow, and if the King should be engaged in the Corbet estates, in Shropshire, to provide him with a ditch of bacon every day—TIT-BITS.

EASY TO BELIEVE.

The "Swanky" One—I'm smoking a terrible lot of cigars lately.

The Other (bored to distraction)—If that's one of them, they are a terrible lot.

—TIT-BITS.

THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.

"You don't seem enthusiastic about elevating the stage."

"No," said the theatrical manager. "The more you try to elevate the stage, the more depressed the box office seems to become."—TIT-BITS.

Askitt—Do you believe in the survival of the fittest?

Digwell—I don't believe in the survival of anybody. I am an undertaker.—TIT-BITS.

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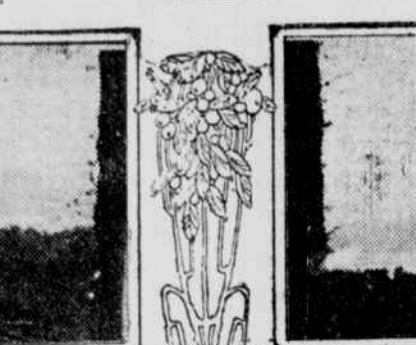
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